

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11849 120959Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 DRC-01 /035 W

----- 116582

R 120929Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4526

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11849

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP MARR JA

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO JAPAN OF SECRETARY OF NAVY

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT SECRETARY OF NAVY PLANS TO VISIT JAPAN, STOPPING AT NAVY/MARINE CORPS FACILITIES HERE FROM OCT 29 TO NOV 2, 1974. AMBASSADOR HODGSON, OF COURSE, PERSONALLY LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING VISIT FROM SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MISSION WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM CHANCE TO CONFER WITH HIM, AND TO LAY OUT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AFFECTING NAVY AND OTHER SERVICE INTERESTS HERE.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST IN ALL PRUDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT VISIT THIS FALL IS NOT LIKELY TO SERVE OUR PURPOSES AS WELL AS ONE LATER, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT MIGHT GENERATE SOME UNUSEFUL SIDE EFFECTS IN THIS TIME FRAME JUST AHEAD OF US. MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE:

A) A NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL (CINCPAC TO TOKYO IN SEPTEMBER, KIMURA AND TANAKA TO WASHINGTON IN SEPT, DEPSECDEF TO TOKYO IN OCTOBER, JDA DIRGEN YAMANAKA TO WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER, AND THE PRESIDENT TO TOKYO IN NOVEMBER). IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PROPER ATTENTION TO SEVNAV'S VISIT IN SENIOR CIRCLES IN TOKYO IN THIS SEASON, SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ON WHICH WE WOULD HOPE TO FOCUS WITH SECNAV ARE ENCUMBERED BY FELEVANT DISCUSSIONS PLANNED DURING  
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OTHER HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS. B) AT PRESENT TIME

WE ARE DEALING WITH EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF GOJ TO PROBLEMS RAISED FOR IT BY PRESENCE OF MIDWAY. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT VISIT BY SECNAV WOULD INEVITABLY FORCE ON GOJ EMBARRASSING DECISION TO CONFRONT THIS PROBLEM IN SEMI-PUBLIC ATMOSPHERE OF HIGH-LEVEL VISIT OR CONTRIVE TO IGNORE IT AT PAIN OF OPPOSITION CRITICISM.

3. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN OPTIMUM IMPACT AND BENEFIT FROM SECRETARY MIDDENDORF'S VISIT, THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO DEFER IT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND PERHAPS UNTIL EARLY 1975.  
HODGSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED VISIT TO JAPAN OF SECRETARY OF NAVY  
**TAGS:** OVIP, JA, (WARNER, JOHN W)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005